

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. The Examiner's statement that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and that claims 2-4 would be allowable if amended to overcome their respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and if rewritten in independent form, is gratefully acknowledged.

A replacement Abstract is appended.

A replacement Fig. 1 and a marked-up copy is appended, and a letter to the draftsperson requesting its entry is filed herewith. The legend has been moved into the specification.

Claims 1-5 are amended herein in view of the Examiner's comments in order to better claim that which the Applicant regards as his invention. New claims 6 and 7 are added based upon claim 1, and new claim 8 and 9 are added based upon claim 5. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments and reconsideration in view of the following comments are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract is objected to. A replacement abstract is attached hereto that Applicant believes fully addresses the Examiner's objections and conforms to U.S. practice and requirements. Entry of the abstract, and withdrawal of the objection, is requested.

Claim Objections:

The objection to claims 1-5 on the grounds of the misspelling of the word "distill" is rendered moot by the deletion of part (h) of claim 1 herein.

Claims 3 and 4 are amended herein to recite parent claims in the alternative only.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-5 are rejected as being allegedly indefinite. Applicant amends claims 1-5 herein and asserts that the amendments fully address and overcome the present rejections.

Regarding the expression "covering all measured of the method" at lines 10 and 11 of claim 1, the objected to phrase has been deleted.

Regarding step 1(g) of claim 1, this step has been amended in claim 1 to further define the material that is adjusted.

Regarding claim 2, this claim is amended herein to clarify its grammar and intended scope.

Regarding claim 4, the word "preferably" has been deleted in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Finally, regarding claim 5, this claim has been amended to clarify that the claim is directed to a device.

In view of the above amendments to the claims, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO.: 09/762,168
AMENDMENT A

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 3968.045

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

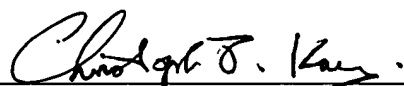
Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being allegedly not drawn to statutory matter.

Claim 5 is amended herein to be drawn to a device for the continuous enrichment of a reaction mixture according to the method of claim 1, the device comprising the listed components. Applicants assert that claim 5, as amended, is directed to statutory material.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is requested.

As there are no remaining rejections or objections, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner considers that there are any remaining issues that may be addressed by telephone, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher J. Kay
Reg. No. 44,820

Pendorf & Cutliff
5111 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7356
Telephone: (813)886-6085

Dated: June 3, 2004

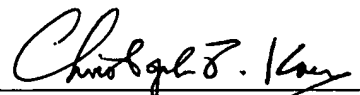
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT A for U.S. Application No. 09/762,168 filed February 26, 2001, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, addressed: Attn: Mail Stop: _____, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **June 3, 2004**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application, except for the issue fee, without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.



Christopher J. Kay



~~FIGURE 1~~ Fig. 1

Legend:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | feeding pipe | 6 | heat exchanger |
| 2 | evaporator | 7 | pipe |
| 3 | suction pipe | 8 | mixing vessel |
| 4 | compressor | 9 | pipe |
| 5 | pressure pipe | 10 | high-grade distillation plant |
| | | 11 | pipe |

Legend is
moved
to
Specification

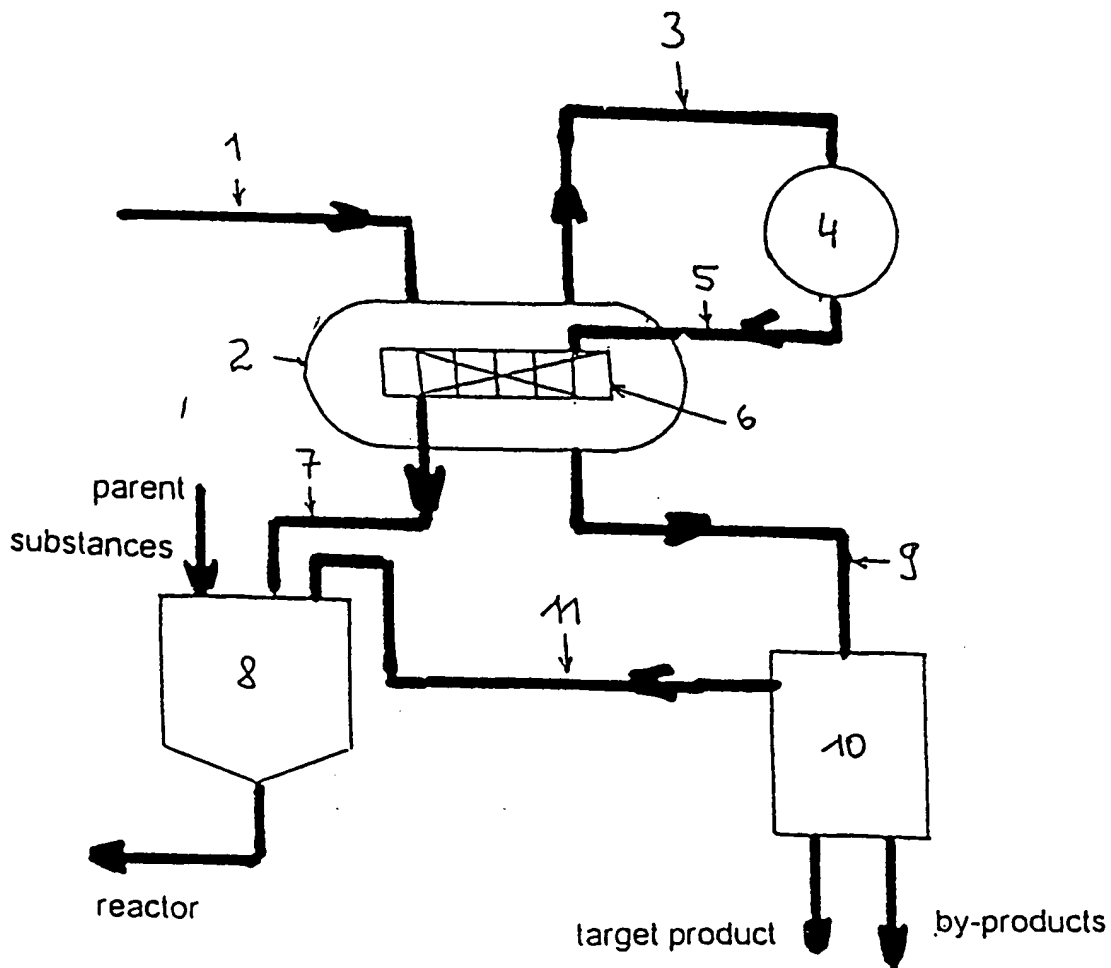


Figure is
re-drafted
for clarity.